

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Digital Repository

---

Poverty and Food Needs

Iowa Community Indicators Program

---

3-1-2016

## Poverty and Food Needs: Union County, Iowa

Liesl Eathington

*Iowa State University*, [leathing@iastate.edu](mailto:leathing@iastate.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/icip\\_poverty](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/icip_poverty)



Part of the [Food Security Commons](#), and the [Regional Economics Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Eathington, Liesl, "Poverty and Food Needs: Union County, Iowa" (2016). *Poverty and Food Needs*. 88.  
[http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/icip\\_poverty/88](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/icip_poverty/88)

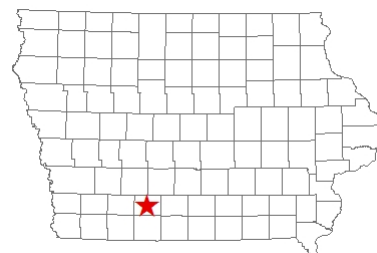
This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Community Indicators Program at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Poverty and Food Needs by an authorized administrator of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).



# Poverty And Food Needs

## Union County, Iowa

Poverty and food insecurity impact the welfare of individuals, families, and communities. This profile describes several indicators of poverty and food insecurity and related measures of general economic well-being in Union County, Iowa.



### Poverty

People living in poverty have annual incomes insufficient to meet their basic needs. The Federal government determines the poverty status of individuals and families using money income thresholds that vary by family size. The thresholds are based on three times the cost of the official USDA Low-Cost Food Plan that includes a nutritious diet of meals and snacks prepared at home. See Page 15 for current Federal poverty guidelines.

The incidence of poverty varies among individuals and families with different socio-economic characteristics. Table 1 (following page) displays poverty rates by age, race and ethnicity, work experience, and family type in Union County and the state. The data describe average poverty characteristics during a five-year survey measurement period.

For each poverty measure, Table 1 includes a point estimate and a margin of error (MOE) value associated with that estimate. Adding and subtracting the margin of error to the point estimate yields a confidence interval that is 90% likely to contain the actual number or percentage of individuals or families in poverty.


### Contents

Poverty Rates	<b>2</b>
Food Insecurity	<b>3</b>
Food Accessibility	<b>4</b>
Nutrition	<b>5</b>
Health Status	<b>7</b>
Program Participation Levels	<b>9</b>
Local Income	<b>12</b>
Household Economic Stress	<b>13</b>
Demographic Profile	<b>14</b>
Other Data Sources	<b>15</b>

# Poverty

**Table 1. Poverty Status of Individuals and Families, 2010-2014**

	Union County Estimates				Statewide	
	Number	MOE (+/-)	% Rate	MOE (+/-)	% Rate	MOE (+/-)
<b>Poverty Status of Individuals</b>						
Total population in poverty.....	1,624	302	13.3%	2.5%	12.6%	0.2%
<i>Individuals in Poverty by Age</i>						
Under 18 years.....	453	143	15.7%	5.0%	16.1%	0.4%
Age 5 and under.....	146	61	15.6%	6.2%	18.4%	0.6%
Age 6 to 17.....	307	111	15.8%	5.4%	15.0%	0.4%
Age 18 to 64.....	903	193	12.6%	2.7%	12.4%	0.2%
Age 65 and up.....	268	79	12.1%	3.6%	7.4%	0.2%
Age 64 to 75.....	85	40	7.4%	3.5%	6.1%	0.3%
Age 75 and older.....	183	51	17.2%	4.6%	9.0%	0.3%
<i>Individuals in Poverty by Race and Hispanic Origin</i>						
White alone.....	1,521	292	12.7%	2.4%	11.1%	0.2%
Other race alone or in combination.....	103	78	38.6%	25.5%	28.4%	1.1%
Hispanic or Latino, any race.....	18	23	6.7%	8.4%	25.5%	1.2%
<i>Individuals in Poverty by Work Status in the Past 12 Months</i>						
All persons ages 16 years and older.....	1,256	234	12.9%	2.4%	11.5%	0.2%
Worked full-time, year-round.....	143	83	3.2%	1.9%	2.4%	0.1%
Worked part-time or part-year.....	432	102	17.5%	3.9%	19.1%	0.4%
Did not work.....	681	173	23.9%	5.2%	19.5%	0.3%
<b>Families at Selected Ratios of Income to Poverty Level</b>						
<i>Income at or below 100% of the poverty threshold:</i>						
All families.....	314	99	9.5%	3.0%	8.2%	0.2%
With related children under 18 years.....	240	88	15.9%	5.8%	13.9%	0.3%
Married couple family.....	99	68	9.3%	6.2%	5.5%	0.3%
Single parent or guardian, no spouse present.....	141	56	31.7%	10.5%	33.0%	0.9%
Female parent or guardian.....	108	47	38.7%	14.3%	39.1%	1.0%
<i>Income under 130% of threshold:</i>						
All families.....	442	107	13.4%	3.2%	11.9%	0.2%
With related children under 18 years.....	313	95	20.7%	6.0%	19.5%	0.4%
Married couple family.....	130	71	12.2%	6.5%	8.9%	0.3%
Single parent or guardian, no spouse present.....	183	62	41.1%	10.6%	43.1%	0.9%
Female parent or guardian.....	130	48	46.6%	12.5%	50.0%	1.0%
<i>Income under 185% of threshold:</i>						
All families.....	863	158	26.2%	4.6%	20.2%	0.3%
With related children under 18 years.....	643	139	42.6%	8.3%	30.5%	0.5%
Married couple family.....	341	110	32.0%	9.7%	17.1%	0.5%
Single parent or guardian, no spouse present.....	302	86	67.9%	11.8%	60.3%	1.0%
Female parent or guardian.....	200	67	71.7%	15.7%	67.2%	1.0%

 A red flag indicates county values that may be unreliable due to small sample size.

**MOE** Add or subtract the MOE (margin of error) to obtain a 90% confidence interval for the estimated number or rate.

Sources this page: American Community Survey Tables S1701, S1702, B17001, B17010, and B17022, U.S. Census Bureau.

# Food Insecurity

In food insecure households, access to food is limited by a lack of money or other resources. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines two levels of food insecurity for households: low food secure and very low food secure.

Low food secure households have difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members. In very low food secure households, the food intake of some household members is reduced and normal eating patterns are disrupted at times during the year due to limited resources. The chart at right illustrates USDA estimates of the incidence of very low food security and low to very low food security among Iowa households compared to the United States.

***A food secure household has access to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members.***

## Low or very low food secure (% of households)

Iowa.....	9.9 - 12.9	<div></div>
United States.....	14.1 - 14.5	<div></div>

## Very low food secure (% of households)

Iowa.....	3.9 - 5.3	<div></div>
United States.....	5.5 - 5.7	<div></div>

## County-Level Estimates of Food Insecurity

While the Federal government does not publish county-level data on food insecurity, some hunger-related interest groups produce their own sub-state estimates. The estimates in Table 2 showing the incidence of food insecurity among individuals and children in Union County were produced by the hunger-relief charity Feeding America.

Individuals with income below 185% of the poverty threshold may be eligible for certain food and family assistance programs (see Pages 9-11). Table 2 includes estimates by household income level for individuals and children to help gauge the size of the food-insecure population who may not be eligible for federal assistance.

**Table 2. Estimated Number and Percentage of Individuals Living in Food Insecure Households**

	<u>Union County</u>	<u>Statewide</u>
<b>Individuals who are food insecure</b>		
Number of persons.....	1,680	389,250
% of total population.....	13.4%	12.6%
Number with incomes <= 185% of poverty.....	1,260	235,107
% of total population.....	10.0%	7.6%
Number with incomes > 185% of poverty.....	437	153,754
% of total population.....	3.5%	5.0%
<b>Children &lt;18 years of age who are food insecure</b>		
Number of children.....	680	139,850
% of all children.....	22.9%	19.3%
Number who are likely income-ineligible for federal nutrition assistance.....	476	82,512
% of all children.....	16.0%	11.4%



Sources this page: "Prevalence of Household-Level Food Insecurity and Very Low Food Security, Average 2012-14," Household Food Security in the United States in 2014, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, ERR-194, September 2015 (for state and national food insecurity by level); and "Map the Meal Gap 2015," Feeding America [online]. [accessed February 2016]. URL: <http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/our-research/map-the-meal-gap/data-by-county-in-each-state.html> (for county and state food insecurity estimates).

# Access to Food Stores

## Number and Types of Food Stores



Many types of stores sell food for consumption at home.

At right are the number and types of retail food establishments located in Union County.

Some small stores, such as those with no paid employees other than the owner(s), may be excluded from the establishment counts.

Retail Food Establishments in Union County, 2013

<i>Number</i>	<i>Store Type</i>	<i>Typical Product Lines</i>
2	Supermarkets	A full line of fresh produce, fresh meat and poultry, dairy, dry and packaged foods, and canned and frozen foods.
8	Convenience Stores	A limited line of products that generally include milk, bread, soda, and snacks. May be connected to a gasoline station.
-	Specialty Food Stores	Narrow line of specialty products such as meat, fish, fruits and vegetables, baked goods, or other foods.
1	Warehouse Clubs & Supercenters	A general line of groceries along with other types of merchandise including apparel and household goods.

## Distance to Grocery Stores

Access to healthy food may be limited in towns or neighborhoods without a grocery store, especially in areas where public transportation is unavailable. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) measures access using distance to the nearest supermarket, superstore, or other grocery store selling all major categories of food. Households more than one mile from a grocery store in urban areas and 10 miles in rural areas are considered to have low access.\*

Table 3 shows USDA estimates of the number and percentage of individuals, children, seniors, low-income individuals (income at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty threshold), and certain households with low access.

Table 3. Estimated Number of Individuals and Households With Low Access to Grocery Stores, 2010



	<u>Union County</u>	<u>Statewide</u>
<b>Individuals with low access to grocery stores</b>		
Number of persons.....	2,442	598,387
Under 18 years of age.....	522	144,580
Age 65 years and older.....	525	91,240
Percentage of total population.....	19.5%	19.6%
% of population under 18 years.....	17.8%	19.9%
% of population 65 years and older.....	23.2%	20.1%
<b>Low income individuals with low access to grocery stores</b>		
Number of persons.....	670	178,560
% of total population.....	5.3%	5.9%
<b>Households with no vehicle and low access to grocery stores</b>		
Number of households.....	94	21,494
% of total households.....	1.8%	1.8%

\*USDA estimates exclude grocery stores with sales below \$2 million per year.

Sources this page: 2012 County Business Patterns, U.S. Census Bureau (for number and types of retail food stores); and Food Environment Atlas, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture [online]. URL: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas.aspx> (for access to grocery stores).

# Nutrition

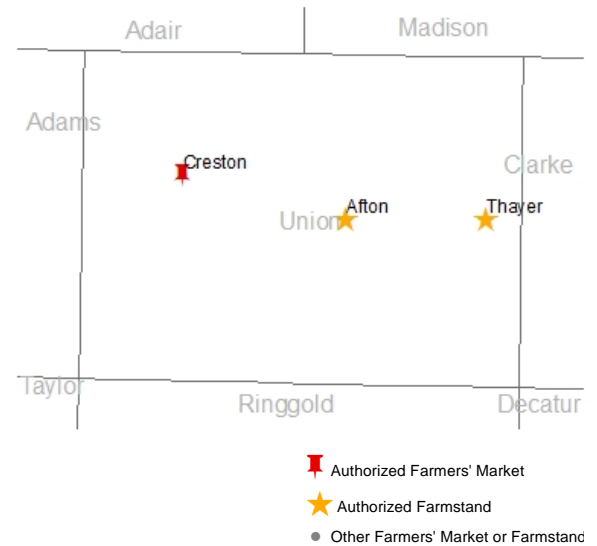
## Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

A healthy diet includes fresh fruits, vegetables, and other produce, many of which are available fresh in season from local farmers' markets and farmstands. The Iowa's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) promotes access to fresh fruits and vegetables by children, pregnant women, and seniors. Eligible participants may use FMNP checks to purchase fresh produce at authorized farmers' markets and farmstands. The map at right shows the locations of authorized farmers' markets and farmstands near Union County as of 2015.

A comparatively small amount of Iowa's cropland acres are devoted to fruit and vegetable production. Farm operators in Union County reported a total of 11 crop acres used for vegetable, fruit, or tree nut production in 2012. That averages out to just 0.8 acres per 1,000 residents in the county, compared to averages of 3.7 acres for Iowa and 31.8 acres for the United States.



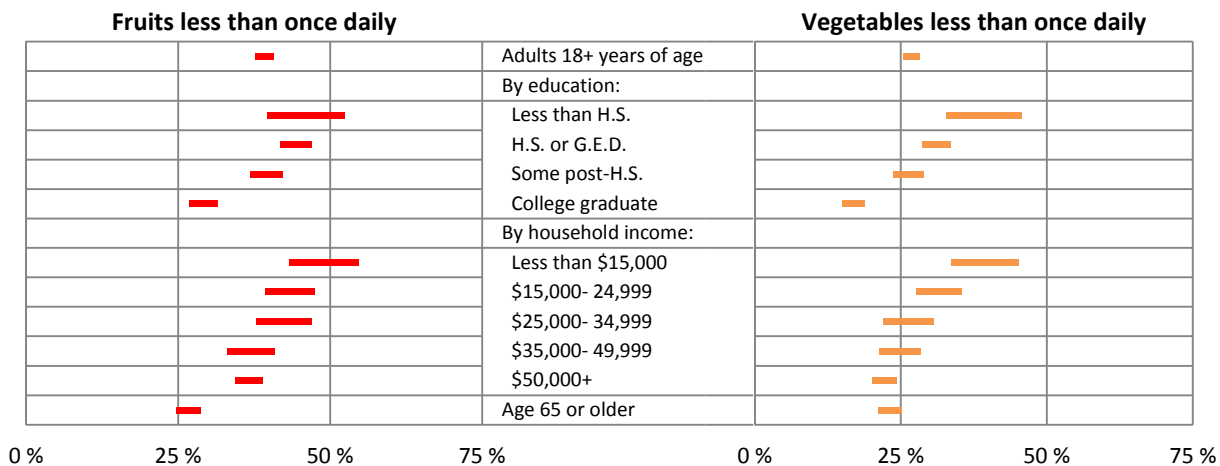
FMNP-Authorized Farmers' Markets and Farmstands



## Fruit and Vegetable Consumption

Fewer than three out of four of Iowa adults consume fruits and vegetables *at least* one time per day. Adults with lower educational attainment and lower income are even less likely to consume fruits and vegetables on a regular basis, as illustrated below. Estimated rates for Iowa adults are shown using 95 percent confidence intervals.

Percentage of Iowa Adults Who Consume Fruits and Vegetables LESS than Once Daily, 2013



Sources this page: Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (for locations of FMNP-authorized markets); ISU Estimates based on 2012 Census of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture (for fruit and vegetable production acres); and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data [online]. [accessed February 2016]. URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence> (for fruit and vegetable consumption rates).



# Nutrition, continued

## Nutrition in Schools

Schools provide an important source of nutrition education and guidance for children and adolescents. Surveys of school principals by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reveal variation in nutrition policies, practices, and education in the nation's secondary schools. Table 4 includes several nutrition-related indicators for Iowa's secondary schools. The reported values reflect the estimated percentage of secondary schools that meet each indicator. The median percentage values for all states are included for comparison.

**Table 4. School Performance Measures Related to Nutrition in Secondary Schools, 2014**

Percentage of Secondary Schools, Selected Sites	All States Median %	Iowa Schools % Rating
Allowed snack foods or beverages available for sale from vending machines, school store, canteen, or snack bars:	66.2	68.2
<i>Less healthy foods</i>		
Chocolate candy	18.2	7.0 ✓
Other candy	21.9	10.8 ✓
Salty snacks	25.7	8.7 ✓
Cookies or other baked goods	27.3	14.2 ✓
Soda pop or fruit drinks	23.8	14.3 ✓
Sports drinks	43.7	48.1 ✗
Did not sell any of the 6 items listed above	45.3	45.8 ✓
<i>Healthier foods</i>		
Nonfat or 1% low-fat milk (plain)	35.4	37.1 ✓
100% fruit or vegetable juice	45.7	50.8 ✓
Fruits (not juice)	26.8	26.6 ✗
Vegetables (not juice, not fried)	17.3	16.0 ✗
Always or almost always offered fruits or non-fried vegetables at school celebrations	33.2	20.7 ✗
Placed fruits or vegetables near the cafeteria cashier, where they are easy to access	75.8	68.2 ✗
Used attractive displays for fruits and vegetables in the cafeteria	68.5	59.2 ✗
Offered a self-serve salad bar to students	46.0	66.6 ✓
Labeled healthful foods with appealing names	35.4	28.6 ✗
Prohibited sale of less nutritious foods and beverages for fundraising purposes	29.1	23.8 ✗
Priced nutritious foods and beverages at a lower cost while increasing price of less nutritious foods and beverages	10.3	12.6 ✓

✓ Better than half of all states  
✗ Needs work

Source this page: School Health Profiles 2014: Characteristics of Health Programs Among Secondary Schools, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. URL: [http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2014/2014\\_profiles\\_report.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/profiles/pdf/2014/2014_profiles_report.pdf).

# Health Status

## Chronic Health Conditions in Iowa and the U.S.

Nutrition is an important factor in the incidence and management of many chronic health conditions. The prevalence of selected health conditions in Iowa and the U.S. is compared at right. Age-adjusted rates are displayed with 95 percent confidence intervals.

Overweight and obese are defined using Body Mass Index, a ratio of weight divided by height. Being overweight (BMI = 25.0-29.9) or obese (BMI  $\geq$  30.0) increases the risk for heart disease, stroke, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis, and certain cancers.

High cholesterol: High fat intake, diabetes, and obesity have been associated with elevated levels of serum cholesterol. High cholesterol may increase risk for coronary heart disease and stroke.

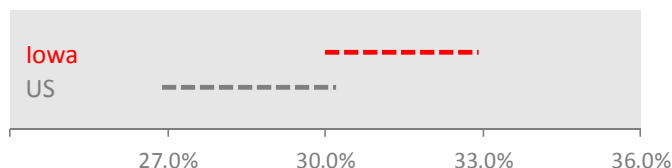
High blood pressure: High sodium intake, insufficient potassium intake, and excessive weight may affect blood pressure. High blood pressure may raise the risk for coronary heart disease and stroke.

Diabetes: Diet is an important factor in the management of diabetes and the risk of developing Type II diabetes. Diabetes can increase risk of blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, and other circulatory problems.

Cardiovascular disease: Poor nutrition is a modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular disease, which is the leading cause of death in the U.S. Coronary heart disease and stroke are two of many types of cardiovascular disease.

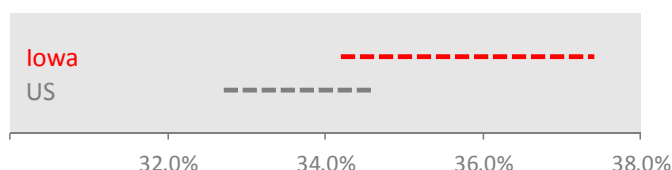
### Overweight or obese

(age-adjusted incidence among adults 18+ years)



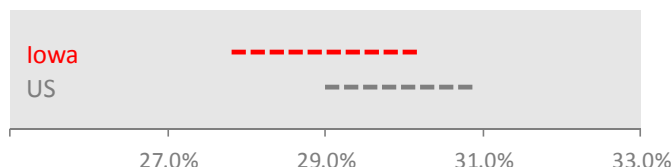
### High cholesterol

(age-adjusted incidence among adults 18+ years)



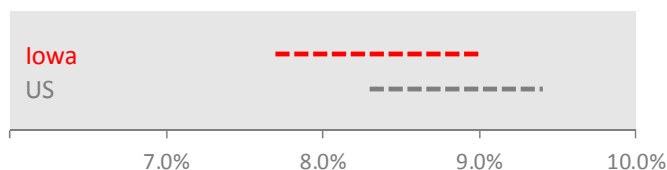
### High blood pressure

(age-adjusted incidence among adults 18+ years)



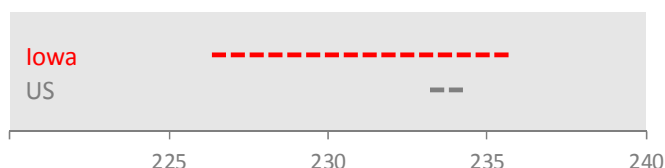
### Diabetes

(age-adjusted incidence among adults 18+ years)



### Deaths from total cardiovascular disease

(age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population)



*Notes: With the exception of mortality from cardiovascular disease, the rates shown are based on the self-reported percentage of adults ever told by a doctor that they have these conditions. Diabetes and high blood pressure rates exclude women diagnosed during pregnancy. U.S. rates reflect median values for all states. Mortality rates are based on vital records for 2010, all other rates derive from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data for 2013.*

*Source this page: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. Chronic Disease Indicators [online]. [accessed January 2016]. URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/CDI/>.*

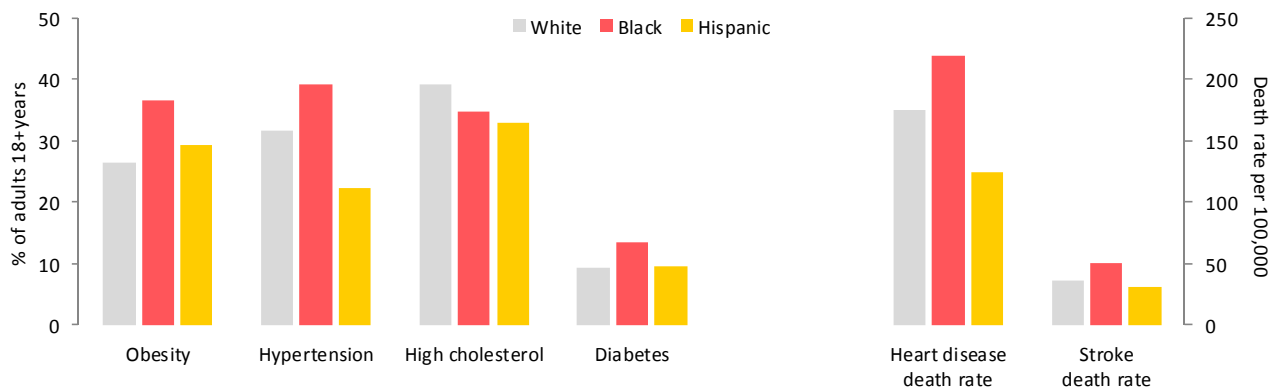


# Health Status, continued

## Socio-economic Factors

The risk for some nutrition-related health conditions varies by race and ethnicity. Following are recent statistics showing the national incidence of selected conditions among non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Hispanic/Latino adults.

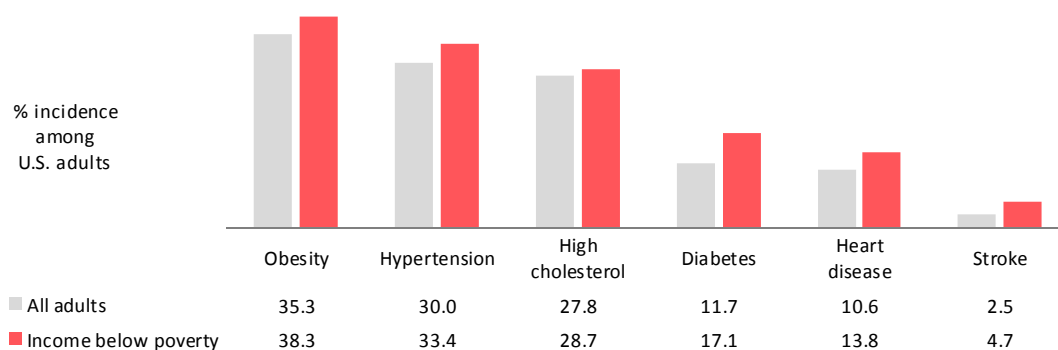
**Incidence of Selected Health Conditions by Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.**



**Several chronic health conditions related to diet are more prevalent among individuals in poverty.**

Risk profiles for these chronic health conditions also vary by income and educational attainment. Socioeconomic groups with higher incidence of poverty also tend to face higher risk for nutrition-related health problems. Incidence rates for U.S. adults in poverty are compared to overall rates below.

**Incidence of Selected Chronic Health Conditions Among U.S. Adults With Incomes Below Poverty**



Sources this page: Rates by race/ethnicity are age-adjusted and based on self-reported data from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2011-12) and the National Vital Statistics System (2011), obtained from Sortable Risk Factors and Health Indicators, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [online]. [accessed February 2016]. URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/sortablestats/>. Rates by income level for obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes (2009-12) among adults 20+ years and for heart disease and stroke (2012-13) among adults 18+ years of age are based on age-adjusted National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data from Health, United States, 2014 (Tables 42, 44, 60, 61, and 64), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus14.pdf>.

# Food and Family Assistance Programs

## Program Participation Levels and Trends

Food and family assistance programs available to Iowa households and families include the Food Assistance Program, referred to at the Federal level as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Family Investment Program (FIP); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and Free and Reduced School Meals Program. Recent county and statewide participation levels in these programs are illustrated in Table 5 below and charts on the following page. Data sources are described on the following page.

### FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Food Assistance Program helps low-income individuals and families buy the food they need for good health. To be eligible, a household's monthly income must be within applicable gross and net limits for its size. Net monthly income is calculated by subtracting certain allowable deductions from gross monthly income. Some exceptions to the income guidelines apply. Households in which everyone receives Supplemental Security Income or Family Investment Program assistance do not have to meet gross or net monthly income guidelines. Households with an elderly (age 60 or over) or disabled person do not have to meet gross income guidelines. Households that do not meet the published income guidelines might be eligible if their monthly income is not more than 160% of the federal poverty level. Most households do not have to meet an asset test. If they do, their home and the value of at least one vehicle are excluded. For more information, go to <http://www.dhs.iowa.gov/food-assistance>.

### FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (FIP)

Iowa's Family Investment Program provides cash assistance, along with employment and training services, to needy families in return for an agreement that recipients will work toward self-sufficiency. Eligibility requirements are relatively complex and depend on a number of factors including income, assets (e.g., cash, bank accounts, etc.), having a minor child, having a Social Security number, cooperating with the Child Support Recovery office, being a resident of Iowa and cooperating with PROMISE JOBS, the Department's work and training program. FIP assistance has a federal lifetime limit of 60 months of assistance received in all states. For more detailed information, see <http://www.dhs.iowa.gov/cash-assistance>.

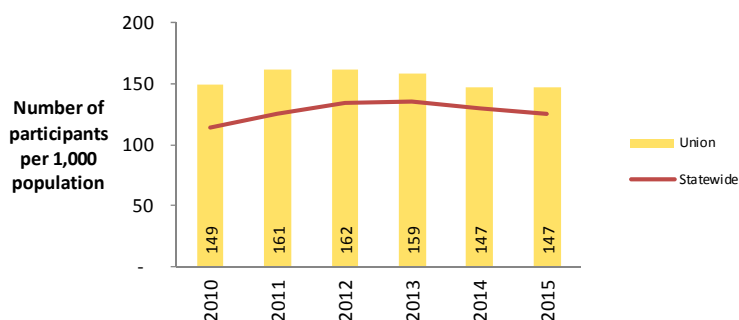
Table 5. Participation Levels, 2015

	<u>Union County</u>	<u>Statewide</u>
<b>Food Assistance Program</b>		
<i>Average monthly participation</i>		
Number of recipients.....	1,838	387,781
Payment per recipient (\$ ).....	107	110
<i>Participants per 1,000 population</i>		
Calendar year 2015.....	146.9	124.8
Latest 3-year average.....	150.9	130.1
<b>Family Investment Program</b>		
<i>Average monthly participation</i>		
Number of recipients.....	125	27,022
Payment per recipient (\$ ).....	145	132
<i>Participants per 1,000 population</i>		
Calendar year 2015.....	9.9	8.7
Latest 3-year average.....	10.3	10.1
<b>WIC</b>		
<i>Unduplicated Annual Participation*</i>		
Infants and Children.....	467	76,532
Women.....	200	32,219
<i>Participants per 1,000 population</i>		
Federal fiscal year 2015.....	53.3	35.0
Latest 3-year average.....	56.9	35.6
<b>Free or Reduced School Lunch</b>		
<i>Number of eligible students</i>		
Free lunch.....	883	166,350
Reduced-price lunch.....	171	34,310
<i>Eligible percentage of enrollment.....</i>		
2015-2016.....	55.4%	41.8%
Latest 3-year average.....	53.8%	41.3%

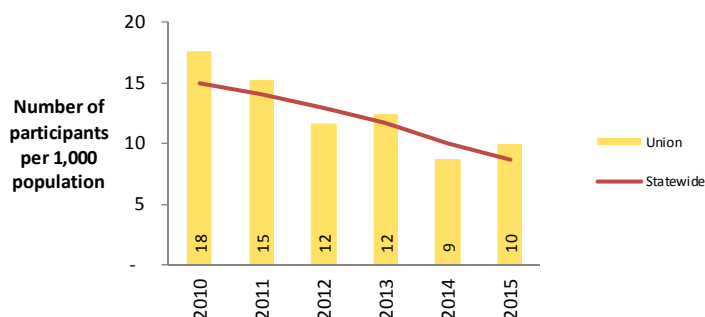
\* Unduplicated counts of persons issued food benefits during the federal fiscal year, with each participant counted only once each year.

# Food and Family Assistance Programs, continued

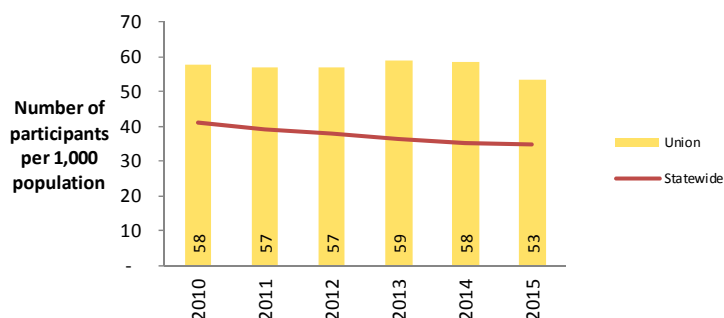
**Food Assistance Program Participation**



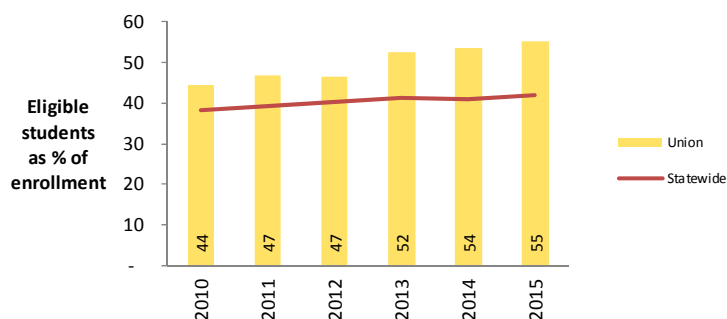
**Family Investment Program Participation**



**WIC Program Participation**



**Eligibility for Free or Reduced School Meals**



## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, and CHILDREN (WIC)

USDA provides federal grants to states to provide supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for individuals at nutritional risk. To be eligible for WIC in Iowa, individuals must live in the state and be included in one of the eligible participant categories: pregnant, breast-feeding (up to one year), postpartum (up to six months), or infants or children up to the age of five. Eligible participants must be in households that have income at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. They also must have a medical or nutrition need as determined at the certification appointment. For more information, go to <http://www.idph.iowa.gov/wic>.

## SCHOOL MEALS

The National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program provide reimbursement to schools for nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free meals to children. State law requires all public schools to offer the National School Lunch Program to all students in school for 4 hours or more each day. Iowa schools are not required to offer School Breakfast, although many do. Children in households with incomes at or below 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free lunches and breakfasts. Children in households with incomes between 130 percent and 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for reduced-price lunches and breakfasts, for which no more than 40 cents may be charged. The Iowa Department of Education provides data on school enrollment and the number of students eligible for free and reduced-price school meals. For more information visit: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/national-school-lunch-program>.

**Data Sources:** Food Assistance Program and Family Investment Program data were obtained from the Iowa Department of Human Services and compiled by the State Data Center of Iowa. Unless otherwise noted, Food Assistance and FIP program data reflect calendar year averages. WIC program data were provided courtesy of the Iowa Department of Public Health and reflect federal fiscal year averages. Free/Reduced School Meals data were obtained from the Iowa Department of Education and reflect academic year averages (e.g. 2015 describes the 2015-2016 school year).

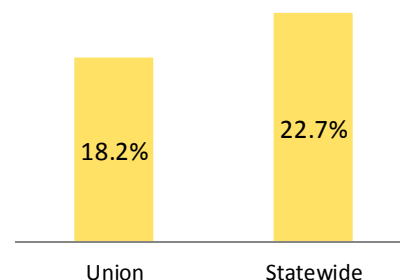
# Food and Family Assistance Programs, continued

## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was established to ensure that low-income children and teens aged 18 and under continue to receive nutritious meals and snacks when school is not in session. The SFSP operates during school vacations, primarily May through August. Free meals that meet Federal nutrition standards are provided to all children at approved SFSP sites located in areas with significant concentrations of low-income children. Sites may be located in schools, churches, community centers, parks, libraries, swimming pools, medical clinics, farmers markets and more. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service administers the program at the national and regional level. The program is administered at the state level by the Iowa Department of Education. Sponsoring organizations receive Federal reimbursement to cover the administrative and operating costs of preparing and serving the meals and snacks provided. A sponsoring organization may be a public or private nonprofit school; a public or private non-profit college or university, a public or private non-profit residential summer camp; a unit of local, county, municipal, State, or Federal government; or any other type of private non-profit organization. For more information visit: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs-0>. Average daily participation totals for all sites within the county are shown at right, expressed as a percentage of the number of students in the county who were eligible for free/reduced school meals during the 2015-2016 academic year.

### Summer Food Service Program

Average daily participation as % of the number of students eligible for free/reduced school meals

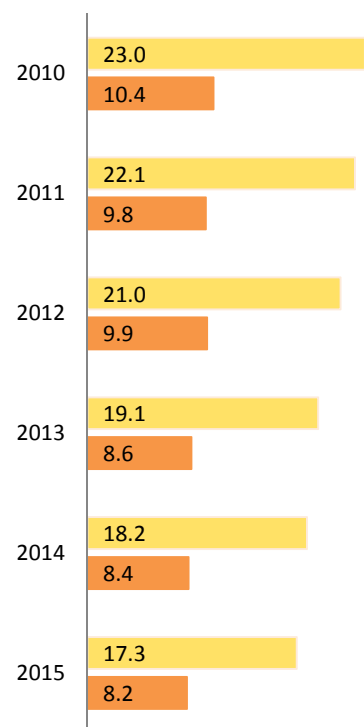


## NUTRITION SERVICES TO SENIORS

The Iowa Department on Aging administers nutrition programs and services through a network of area agencies. The programs are available to individuals 60 years of age and older, with preference given to those at risk for institutionalization or with the greatest economic or social need, such as low-income minority; limited English proficiency; or rural residents. Available services include congregate meals and home-delivered meals. Eligible participants for congregate meals are 60 years of age or older, spouses of eligible individuals, volunteers who assist during meal hours, and individuals with a handicap or disability who meet specific criteria. Home-delivered meals are available to people age 60 or older who are homebound due to illness or disability or who are otherwise isolated. Recent trends in state-level participation in both programs are illustrated at right, with the annual number of registered consumers expressed as a percentage of the statewide population aged 60 years or older.

### Senior Nutrition Program

Statewide participants per 1,000 Iowans aged 60+ years



■ Congregate meals  
■ Home delivered meals

*Data Sources: Summer Food Program participation data were provided by the Iowa Department of Education. Senior Nutrition Program participation data were obtained from the Iowa Department on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging, Iowa Aging Services Consumer Counts by Fiscal Year, Age Group, and Service, via the Iowa Open Data Portal [online]. [accessed February, 2016]. URL <https://data.iowa.gov/>.*

# Local Income Characteristics

## Household Income

Median household and family income values and median worker earnings are shown in Table 6. Household income describes the annual, pre-tax income from all sources (earnings, Social Security, public assistance, etc.) for all members in a household.

Earnings include wages, salaries, and net self-employment income. Values are shown using 90 percent confidence intervals.

**Table 6. Income Statistics, 2010-2014**

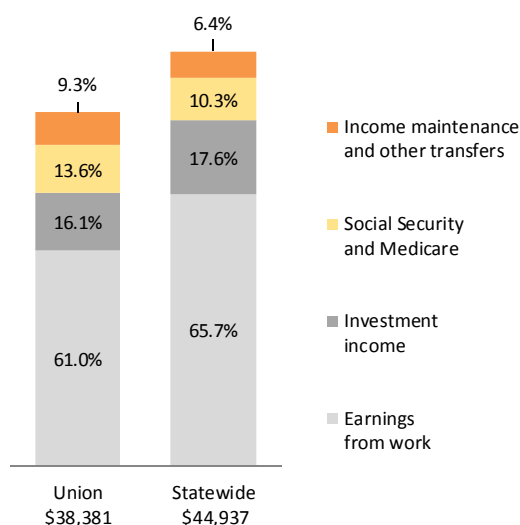
	<u>Union County</u>	<u>State of Iowa</u>
<b>Median Incomes (\$)</b>		
All households.....	40,932 - 47,336	52,445 - 52,987
Families.....	54,029 - 59,701	66,427 - 67,231
Non-family households.....	20,979 - 25,891	29,639 - 30,353
<b>Median Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers (\$)</b>		
Males.....	38,517 - 43,365	46,152 - 46,600
Females.....	26,226 - 31,000	35,684 - 36,104

## Personal Income by Source

Total personal income is the income received by all persons from all sources. Its major components include the earnings of workers and incomes of proprietors; rental, dividend, and interest income from investments; and government and other transfer payments. The chart below illustrates Union County's average per capita income in dollars and the average percentage contributed by each major source.

Transfer payments, which include Social Security, Medicare, income maintenance and other assistance programs, are an important source of local personal income. The fraction of local income derived from government assistance programs provides a relative measure of need. Table 7 shows detailed flows of income maintenance and other transfer payments into Union County compared to statewide per capita averages.

**Per Capita Personal Income: Percentage Contribution by Source and Annual Average in Dollars (2014)**



Sources this page: American Community Survey Table DP-03, U.S. Census Bureau (for household income and earnings); and Local Area Personal Income and Employment Tables CA1-3, CA04, and CA35, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (for personal income and transfers by source).

**Table 7. Transfer Payments Per Capita (2014)**

	<u>Union County</u>	<u>Statewide</u>
<b>Retirement and Disability</b>		
Social Security (OASDI).....	\$3,172	\$2,888
Non-OASDI disability and related.....	262	74
<b>Medical</b>		
Medicare.....	2,059	1,734
Medicaid and related.....	1,706	1,363
Military medical.....	16	17
<b>Income Maintenance</b>		
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)....	121	104
Earned Income Tax Credit.....	194	154
SNAP (Food Assistance).....	186	169
Other income maintenance*.....	238	199
<b>Other Transfers</b>		
Veterans benefits.....	239	208
Unemployment insurance.....	171	134
Education and training assistance.....	193	187
All other.....	248	252

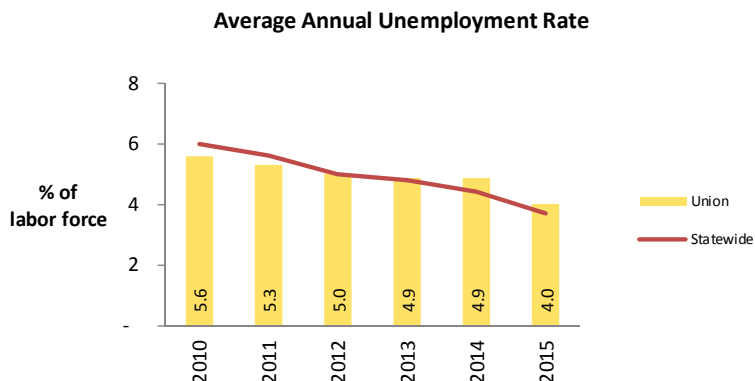
\*Includes Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), energy assistance, foster care and adoption assistance, WIC payments, and general state and local assistance to low-income individuals and families.

# Measures of Household Economic Stress

Due to the many competing demands on household budgets, the risk for poverty and food insecurity may increase during periods of economic stress caused by job loss, illness or injury, and other changes in household conditions.

## Unemployment

The loss of wages and other benefits due to unemployment may contribute to individual and family economic stress. The chart at right shows recent average, annual unemployment rates in the county and state. The unemployment rate measures the percentage of the civilian labor force that is unemployed. The labor force consists of all persons aged 16 or older who either are currently employed or actively seeking work.



## Health Insurance

The cost of obtaining health care services may require families, especially those lacking health insurance coverage, to make trade-offs between health care and food. Table 8 shows the estimated number and percentage of individuals without health insurance. The displayed ranges reflect 90% confidence intervals for each measure.

**Table 8. Health Insurance Coverage Estimates, 2009-2013**

	<u>Union County</u>	<u>State of Iowa</u>
<b>Uninsured Population</b>		
All persons under 65 years.....	907 - 1,149	235,600 - 251,492
Children 18 years and younger.....	100 - 174	28,837 - 36,567
<b>Estimated % Uninsured</b>		
All persons under 65 years.....	9.1% - 11.5%	9.3% - 9.9%
Children 18 years and younger.....	3.4% - 5.8%	3.9% - 4.9%

## Housing Costs

Housing costs typically represent a large fraction of a family's budget, and may constrain the amount of income available for purchasing food. Table 9 shows the estimated median value for homes and median gross rent for housing units in the county and state. Also shown are estimated percentages of households whose housing costs exceed 30 percent of their monthly income. The displayed ranges reflect 90% confidence intervals for each measure.

**Table 9. Estimated Housing Costs, 2010-2014**

	<u>Union County</u>	<u>State of Iowa</u>
<b>Housing Values &amp; Rents</b>		
Median home value (\$ ).....	85,860 - 95,540	125,670 - 126,930
Median gross rent (\$ ).....	540 - 642	685 - 693
<b>% of Households With Housing Costs &gt;=30% of Income</b>		
Homeowners with a mortgage.....	17.9% - 26.0%	22.0% - 22.8%
Homeowners without a mortgage.....	10.5% - 19.1%	10.9% - 11.5%
Renters.....	37.4% - 55.0%	44.4% - 45.7%

Sources this page: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (for unemployment rates), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau (for health insurance coverage); and American Community Survey Table DP-04, U.S. Census Bureau (for housing costs).

# Population Profile

## Age Distribution by Race and Ethnicity

Recent U.S. Census Bureau population estimates by age, race, and Hispanic origin for Union County are shown in Table 10 below. The Census Bureau defines Hispanic as an ethnicity, not a race. Individuals of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**Table 10. Population Estimates, 2014**

<i>Group</i>	Union County Population by Age					Racial/Ethnic Group % of Population	
	<i>Under 20</i>	<i>20 to 44</i>	<i>45 to 64</i>	<i>65 years</i>	<i>All Ages</i>	<i>Union</i>	<i>Statewide</i>
Total Population.....	3,236	3,587	3,323	2,370	12,516	100.0	100.0
White alone.....	3,066	3,460	3,264	2,358	12,148	97.1	92.1
Black alone.....	53	46	17	5	121	1.0	3.4
American Indian/Alaska Native alone.....	14	15	11	1	41	0.3	0.5
Asian alone.....	23	34	18	1	76	0.6	2.2
Any other race or combination.....	80	32	13	5	130	1.0	0.1
Hispanic (of any race).....	155	150	31	9	345	2.8	5.6

## Educational Attainment and English Language Ability

Individuals with lower educational attainment may have limited employment and earnings opportunities that contribute to household economic stress. Table 11 displays the percentage of the adult population by their highest degree attained. Educational attainment is reported for the adult aged population after their education is largely complete (25 years of age or older). Values are displayed using 90% confidence intervals.

Language barriers may hinder programming and other local efforts to assist area families and individuals in need. Table 10 below shows the number and percentage of individuals ages 5 years and older who report speaking English less than “very well.”

**Table 11. Education and English Language Ability, 2010-2014**

	<u>Union County</u>	<u>State of Iowa</u>
<b>Adults by Highest Degree Attained</b>		
% Less than 9th grade.....	1.8% - 3.8%	3.4% - 3.6%
% High school diploma.....	88.9% - 93.5%	91.2% - 91.4%
% Bachelor's degree or higher.....	14.3% - 18.9%	26.2% - 26.6%
<b>Population with Limited English-Speaking Ability (Age 5 and Older)</b>		
Number of persons.....	51 - 193 🇺🇸	85,647 - 90,125
Percentage of population.....	0.4% - 1.6% 🇺🇸	3.0% - 3.2%



Sources this page: 2014 Annual Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau (for age distribution by race, and ethnicity); and American Community Survey Table DP-02, U.S. Census Bureau (for educational attainment and English language ability).



# Data Notes

## Federal Poverty Guidelines

The U.S. Census Bureau determines the poverty status of the non-institutionalized population based on family size and income level. If a family's total annual income is below the threshold level appropriate for that family size, every member of the family is considered poor. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) annually publishes poverty guidelines by family size that are based on Census Bureau poverty thresholds. At right are recent HHS poverty guidelines as published in the Federal Register.

Source: *Federal Register*, Document Number 2016-01450, January 25, 2016 [online]. [accessed February 2016]. URL: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/01/25/2016-01450/annual-update-of-the-hhs-poverty-guidelines>.

## Federal HHS Poverty Guidelines, 2016

Family Size	Annual Family Income (\$)		
	Percentage of Poverty Threshold		
	100%	130%	185%
1	11,880	15,444	21,978
2	16,020	20,826	29,637
3	20,160	26,208	37,296
4	24,300	31,590	44,955
5	28,440	36,972	52,614
6	32,580	42,354	60,273
7	36,730	47,749	67,951
8	40,890	53,157	75,647

## Other Information Sources

- Poverty: Poverty rate data in this report were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Other sources for poverty data include the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program and the Current Population Survey, both of which are administered by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Food insecurity: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) publishes estimates of food insecurity at the national and state levels using data collected from a special annual supplement to the Current Population Survey. The county-level data in this report were obtained from Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America (<http://feedingamerica.org/>). Readers are encouraged to visit their web site for more information about their methodology and data sources.
- Access to food stores: This report utilized county-level statistics from the Food Access Research Atlas, Economic Research Service, USDA. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides an alternative source with data at the census tract level. For more information, see the publication, "Access to Healthier Food Retailers — United States, 2011," available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6203a4.htm>.
- Resources for families and communities: Please visit the ISUEO Families and Communities Web page at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/reducing-poverty-families-communities>.

For more information, please contact:

Kimberly Greder  
Associate Professor and  
Human Sciences Extension and Outreach Specialist  
Human Development & Family Studies  
515-294-5906  
[kgreder@iastate.edu](mailto:kgreder@iastate.edu)

Publication prepared by:

Liesl Eathington  
Assistant Scientist  
Department of Economics  
515-294-2954  
[leathing@iastate.edu](mailto:leathing@iastate.edu)



Iowa State University Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Compliance, 3280 Beardshear Hall, (515) 294-7612.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cathann A. Kress, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.